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U.S. Officials Say Guard Was Seduced

Soviet Embassy Worker Reportedly Recruited Marine to Aid Spying

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A Marine security guard being held on suspicion of helping Soviet agents spy on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was seduced and recruited by a Soviet national who worked at the embassy, State Department sources said yesterday.

Department officials said the case of Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree is being treated as a serious breach of security, although the assessment of the extent of the damage is not complete.

Lonetree, 25, turned himself in late last year in Vienna, according to the sources; he had been assigned to the U.S. Embassy there after leaving Moscow last March. The sergeant is said to have become alarmed after being contacted by Soviet agents in Vienna and asked to perform increasingly serious espionage activities.

Lonetree is being held in confinement at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia while awaiting a military hearing to determine charges, according to Marine Corps officials.

The sergeant was assigned to the embassy in Moscow in September 1984. Officials would not say when his liaison began with the female

embassy employee, who is believed to have recruited him to cooperate with the KGB, or Soviet secret police.

Marine security guards patrol embassy buildings, dispose of "burn bags" containing confidential information and check for security violations.

The Washington Times reported yesterday that Lonetree was suspected of permitting KGB spies to enter the Moscow embassy, and of helping the KGB install listening devices in the Moscow and Vienna embassies. Officials would not confirm this report.

Following the expulsion of Soviet diplomatic personnel from the United States last fall, Soviet authorities withdrew 260 Soviet nationals from support jobs at the American Embassy in Moscow and the U.S. consulate in Leningrad.

The State Department has signed a contract with Pacific Architects and Engineers, a private firm, to supply Americans to be drivers, cooks, kitchen workers and other support personnel in the Soviet Union. The first group of drivers was recently sent.

According to Justice Department officials, the expulsion of the Soviet diplomats followed the identification

of many espionage agents in this country by Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations. Zakharov was sent home Oct. 30 as part of an arrangement that included the release of U.S. News & World Report correspondent Nicholas Daniloff, who had been arrested by the KGB in Moscow Aug. 30 in retaliation for Zakharov's arrest in New York a week earlier.

In a related development, officials at several U.S. agencies said the White House decided last week not to issue a new National Security Decision Memorandum that would have given the Justice Department much greater authority in screening Soviet diplomats seeking to enter the United States.

A spokesman for the State Department, which has primary responsibility for the entry of Soviet diplomats, said the Soviet government has been repeatedly informed that it will not be allowed to use its diplomatic facilities for espionage purposes.

Both State and Justice officials said the objective of more stringent screening of Soviet diplomats may be accomplished without a new government order, through informal means and interagency cooperation.